

Hello!

We've finished the March 25, 2014 Bulletin 120 (B120) forecast update. The forecasts include observed conditions through the morning of March 25, 2014 and are posted at <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/iudir?s=b120up>.

Forecast Summary:

Considering the rivers forecasted in the B120 update, the projected median April-July runoff in the major Sierra river basins ranges from 11 percent on the Tule River to 51 percent for the Inflow to Shasta Lake. On average, the forecasts have dropped almost 3 percent since our March 18 forecast update. The largest drops (approximately 5 percent) were forecast on the Mokelumne, San Joaquin, and Kings rivers.

Runoff:

Despite the northern Sierra having received more than the average March precipitation, no major river in the state is flowing at a rate greater than 80 percent of average for March. So far in the month, flows in rivers north of the Cosumnes have been above 55 percent of average. South of the Tuolumne River, the flows have been less than 30 percent of average except for the Kings river which is flowing at a rate of about 35 percent of average.

Precipitation:

No significant precipitation was measured in the Northern Sierra 8-Station index and the San Joaquin 5-Station index for the week ending March 25.

As of March 25, the March and Water Year totals for the Northern Sierra 8-Station index remain at 5.7 inches (83 percent of the March average) and 20.9 inches (42 percent of the Water Year average and 52 percent of average for the date).

As of March 25, the March and Water Year totals for the San Joaquin 5-Station index remain at 2.9 inches (48 percent of the March average) and 13.2 inches (32 percent of the Water Year average and 41 percent of average for the date).

Snowpack:

As of March 25, 2014, the snow sensor data indicates that the Northern, Central, and Southern Sierra snowpack are at 13, 29, and 24 percent of their April 1 averages, respectively. The statewide snowpack stands at 7 inches or 23 percent of the April 1 average.

Weather and Climate Outlook:

The forecast for the next six days shows precipitation across most of the state with the majority of it falling on Friday and Saturday with daily amounts just under 2 inches. During this period, freezing elevations are expected to range from 4,000 feet up to 8,500 feet over the Sierra Nevada.

The NWS Climate Prediction Center's (CPC) one-month and three-month outlooks have not been updated since March 20. Both forecasts suggest a chance of above average temperatures and a chance of below normal precipitation for the entire state over those periods.

El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions are currently neutral. The neutral is expected to continue through the Northern Hemisphere Spring 2014 with about a 50% chance of El Niño developing during the summer or fall.

Next Update:

The next Bulletin 120 and Water Supply Index forecasts for conditions on April 1, 2014 will be available on April 8, 2014.

If you have any questions regarding this forecast, please contact a member of the Snow Surveys staff. We are happy to help.